



## **NEWS**

### ***Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas*** ***L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2<sup>nd</sup> District***

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS AND YAROSLAVSKY URGE BOARD TO SUPPORT REQUEST TO SUPPORT BILL FOR SAME-DAY REGISTRATION / VOTING IN L.A. COUNTY**

**LOS ANGELES** – With voter turnout plunging to new lows and officials looking to increase voter participation, Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Zev Yaroslavsky today urged the Board to support Secretary of State Debra Bowen's proposed bill to allow citizens to both register and vote up to election day.

"One way to increase the number of voters is to allow citizens to register and vote on the same day, up to and including Election Day," the Supervisors stated in their joint motion. "Secretary of State Debra Bowen is proposing an election day registration bill that is deserving of this County's support."

Under current law, the 15<sup>th</sup> day before an election is the deadline for voter registration and no one who has not registered by that day can vote. Bowen's bill would change this by allowing any citizen to go to the Registrar of Voters' Office up to election day, to complete a voter registration form and cast a provisional ballot.

Elections officials would then process the voter registration form and, if the registration was found to be valid, the provisional ballot would be counted. Citizens wishing to use this process would have to show a form of identification specified by the federal Help America Vote Act to include a current and valid photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

This process would only be allowed to take place at the Registrar of Voters' central office, where ballots from every precinct would be available and with the assistance of trained and experienced staff.

Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Yaroslavsky's motion, which the Board will consider next week, instructs the county's representatives in Sacramento to vigorously pursue passage of the bill.

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